

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 254

By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION to designate June 7, 2009, as “National Church School Day” and the months of June and July of 2009 as “Back to Church School Crusade Months” in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, a movement has been initiated in Memphis and Shelby County to establish and spread a “Back to Church School” crusade across Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are proud to work with those spiritual leaders whose devout service to God and their respective communities has instilled in others the faith to follow His spiritual path; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, Evangelist Nettie B. Rogers of Memphis, in her dedication to the Lord’s work and her desire to improve the quality of life for those around her, founded and chartered the Memphis Inter-Denominational Fellowship, Incorporated, which she established to build spiritual and moral fiber, promote Christian and public education, eliminate crime and juvenile delinquency, and reduce illiteracy; and

WHEREAS, launching its signature program, the “Back to Church School Crusade,” in 1970, Memphis Inter-Denominational Fellowship, Incorporated, enlisted the assistance of the Mayor of Memphis, who proclaimed the first Sunday in June as “National Church School Day”; Shelby County government later joined with the City of Memphis and, in 2005, a joint City and County proclamation was issued designating June 5, 2005, as “National Church School Day”; similar proclamations have been issued by the Memphis and Shelby County governments in 2007, 2008, and again in 2009; and

WHEREAS, taking these youth from the streets and placing them in an atmosphere of dedication, devotion, understanding, and prayer is an important step toward eliminating crime, delinquency, and so many of the other blights that plague the streets of our nation’s cities; and

WHEREAS, Evangelist Nettie B. Rogers, a pioneer, trailblazer, and a woman of stamina, was a history maker in ministry, and is the only woman to be inducted into the "Hall of Pulpits" of the African-American Museum of Memphis; she passed away February 12, 2009, and was honored posthumously by the Tennessee House of Representatives for her steadfast work in the ministry for the betterment of youth and this country; and

WHEREAS, in order to honor the legacy of Evangelist Nettie B. Rogers and her desire to improve her community and country by advancing the youth, all churches, places of worship, clubs, organizations, and affiliated groups are being asked to participate in the observance of "National Church School Day," a day dedicated to the principles of church school teachings; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that June 7, 2009, is hereby designated as "National Church School Day" in Tennessee, and the months of June and July of 2009 are designated as "Back to Church School Crusade Months" in Tennessee. We urge all Tennesseans to participate in the observance of "National Church School Day" and "Back to Church School Crusade Months," and we ask that all citizens contribute to the positive development of the State's youth by encouraging them to attend Vacation Bible Schools, not only this year but in the years to come as well.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.